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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Date: August 28, 2007

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> REPLY BRIEF (35 page)

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The DIRECTV Group, Inc. – RE / R11 / A109, P.O. Box 956 – 2250 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

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Georgann S. Grunebach, Registration No. 33,179

August 28, 2007
Date

Customer No. 020991

Due Date: August 28, 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:	
Inventor: Robert G. Arsenault et al.	Examiner: Annan Q. Shang
Serial No.: 09/677,691	Group Art Unit: 2617
Filed: October 2, 2000	Appeal No.: _____
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING NON-RESIDENT PROGRAM GUIDE INFORMATION TO A MEDIA SUBSCRIBER	

REPLY BRIEF

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.192, Appellants hereby submit Appellants' Reply Brief with respect to the Appeal from the final rejection in the above-identified application, as set forth in the Office Action dated June 30, 2006.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is THE DIRECTV GROUP, INC., the assignee of the present application.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences for the above-referenced patent application.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 33-39, 41-47 and 49 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 33-39, 41-47 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,401,242 to Eyer (hereinafter "Eyer"), and these rejections are being appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments to the claims have been made subsequent to the final Office Action.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants' invention is a system and method that provides program guide information to subscribers. In one embodiment, the method is applied to a satellite broadcasting system (600), as illustrated in FIG. 2 (reproduced below). The satellite broadcasting system (600) has a first satellite (602) broadcasting a first signal (650) having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said set of program material, and a second satellite (604) broadcasting a second signal (652) having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first signal (650) and the second signal (652) each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier.

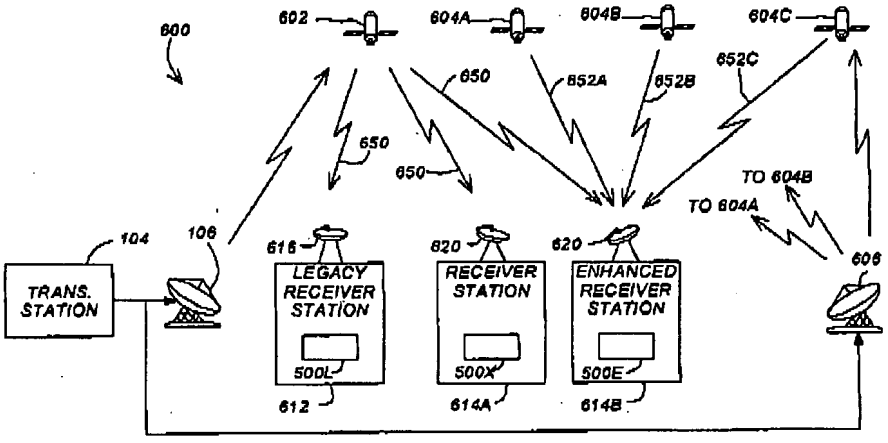

FIG. 6

Claim 1: In the broadcast system described above, one embodiment of the method comprises the steps of mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal (block 902 of FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 19-24), mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first signal (block 904 of FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 24-26), wherein the second

service channel is logically offset from the first service channel (page 24, lines 26-30), and transmitting the first signal to the subscriber (page 23, lines 4-5 and block 906 of FIGs. 9A and 9B), wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information (block 1002 of FIGs. 10A and 10B and page 27 lines 3-7) and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value (FIG. 10B and page 27, line 15- page 29, line 3).

Claim 9: In an analogous broadcasting system described above, another embodiment of the method comprises the steps of receiving the first signal (FIG. 10B, page 27, lines 15-17), and presenting the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber (block 1034 of FIG 10C, page 32, lines 1-4). The first signal includes a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information (FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 19-24); a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information signal (block 904 of FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 24-26); and the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel (page 24, lines 26-30). Further, the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information (block 1002 of FIGs. 10A and 10B and page 27 lines 3-7) and the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value (FIG. 10B and page 27, line 15- page 29, line 3).

Claim 17: In an analogous broadcasting system described above, another embodiment of the invention is evidenced by an apparatus for providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station receiving the first signal. The apparatus comprises a program guide subsystem (item 206 in FIG. 2, further disclosed in FIG. 3 and discussed in page 8, line 14 - page 10, line 2 of the specification) for mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal, and mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal,

wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel (disclosed in the specification as described above); and a transmitter (block 222 of FIG. 2, discussed at page 10, line 17) for transmitting the first signal to the receiver station (block 110 of FIG. 1 and page 6, line 9 of the specification); wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value (see block 1002 of FIGs. 10A and 10B and page 27 lines 3-7; and FIG. 10B and page 27, line 15- page 29, line 3).

Claim 25: In an analogous broadcasting system described above, another embodiment of the invention is evidenced by an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal. The apparatus comprises a tuner (block 504 of FIG. 5 and page 11, line 8) for receiving the first signal (FIG. 10B, page 27, lines 15-17), and a presentation device (page 26, lines 5-6) for presenting the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber (block 1034 of FIG 10C, page 32, lines 1-4). The first signal includes a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information (FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 19-24); a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information signal (block 904 of FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 24-26); and the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel (page 24, lines 26-30). Further, the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information (block 1002 of FIGs. 10A and 10B and page 27 lines 3-7) and the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value (FIG. 10B and page 27, line 15- page 29, line 3).

Claims 33 and 41: In an analogous broadcasting system described above, embodiments of the invention are also described by the structures, materials, or acts corresponding to the following:

Claim(s)	Structure(s), material(s), or act(s) corresponding to:	Found At
33	means for mapping at least a portion of the first	(item 206 in FIG. 2, further

Claim(s)	Structure(s), material(s), or act(s) corresponding to:	Found At
	program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal	disclosed in FIG. 3 and discussed in page 8, line 14 - page 10, line 2 of the specification)
33	means for mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel	(item 206 in FIG. 2, further disclosed in FIG. 3 and discussed in page 8, line 14 - page 10, line 2 of the specification)
33	means for mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel	(item 206 in FIG. 2, further disclosed in FIG. 3 and discussed in page 8, line 14 - page 10, line 2 of the specification)
41	means for receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:	(block 504 of FIG. 5 and page 11, line 8)
41	means for mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel	(item 206 in FIG. 2, further disclosed in FIG. 3 and discussed in page 8, line 14 - page 10, line 2 of the specification)
42	wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information	FIG. 7, and at page 24, line 28 through page 25, line 1.

Claim 49: In an analogous broadcasting system described above, embodiments of the invention are also described by a signal embodied in a carrier wave, the signal produced by performing the method steps of mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal (block 902 of FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 19-24), mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first signal (block 904 of FIGs. 9A and 9B and page 24, lines 24-26), wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel (page 24, lines 26-30), and transmitting the first signal (page 23, lines 4-5 and block 906 of FIGs. 9A and 9B), wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information (block 1002 of FIGs. 10A and 10B and page 27 lines 3-7) and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value (FIG. 10B and page 27, line 15- page 29, line 3).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 33-39, 41-47 and 49 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Eyer.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. Introductory Information

1. The Applicants' System and Method

Claim 1 recites:

In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiving station receiving the first signal, comprising the steps of:

mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;

mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

transmitting the first signal to the receiving station;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

The preamble of claim 1 is best understood by reference to FIG. 6 below, wherein the first service network uses satellite 602 and the second satellite network uses satellite 604C

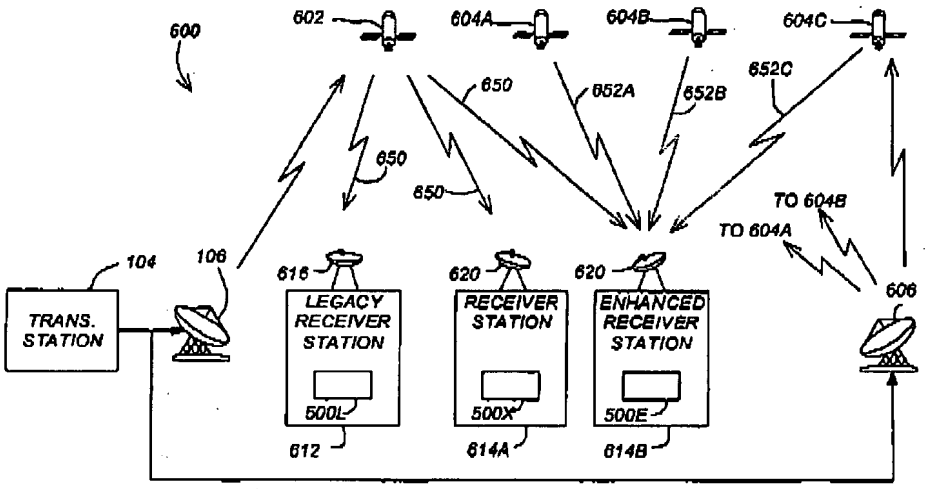

FIG. 6

The remainder of claim 1 can be understood with reference to FIG. 7 below:

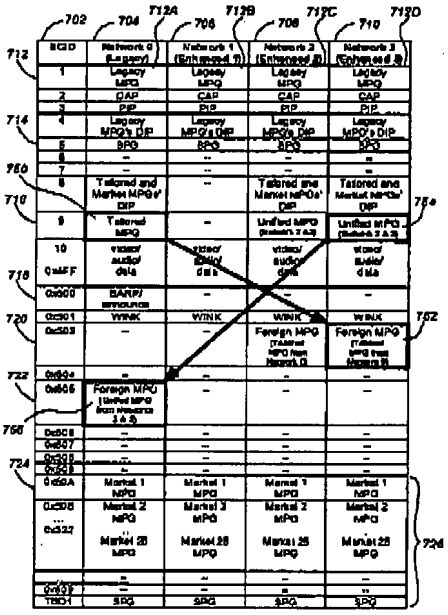

FIG. 7

For purpose of illustration, let:

- The "first service network" recited in claim 1 refer to network 0 (704) (e.g. the network that uses satellite 602);
- The "second service network" recited in claim 1 refer to network 3 (710) (e.g. the network that uses satellite 604C).
- The "service channels" that "each of the networks transmit information on" be service channels (702);
- The "first program guide information" recited in claim 1 be the Legacy MPG 712A; and
- The "second program guide information" recited in claim 1 be the Unified MPG (754).

Note that at least a portion of the first program guide information is mapped to a first service channel (SCID 1 or 712) of the first broadcast signal, and that at least a portion of the second program guide information is mapped to a second service channel (0x505 or 722) of the first broadcast signal. In this system, program guides for different networks are transmitted on the first service network on different service channels.

2. The Eyer Reference

Now, let's turn to the Eyer reference. Eyer describes a system for merging program guides between a satellite system and a cable system (see FIG. 1 below).

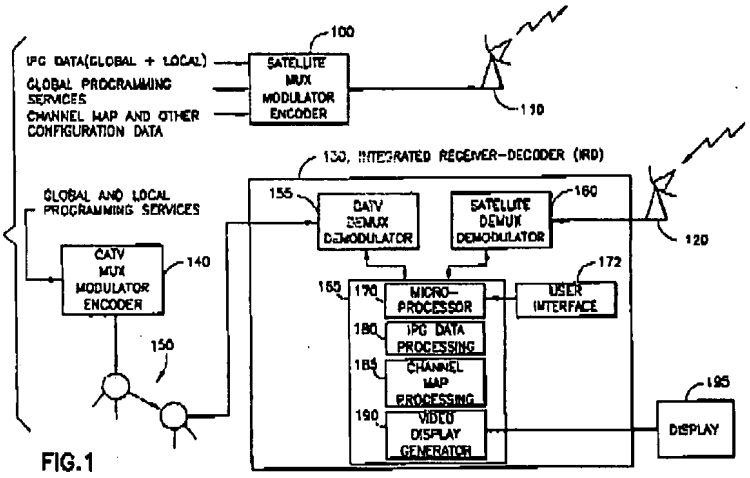

FIG.1

Eyer transmits configuration data to an IPG translator. As shown in FIG. 2, that configuration data includes a source channel map (which includes the source ID, source name, source affiliation) and a regional map (which includes the region ID, region name, and a list of source IDs).

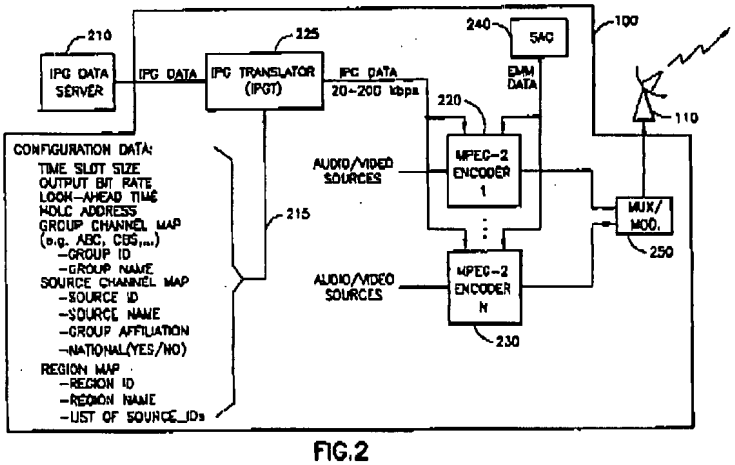

FIG.2

That information is compiled and transmitted to the receivers in bundles, as shown in FIG. 4, below.

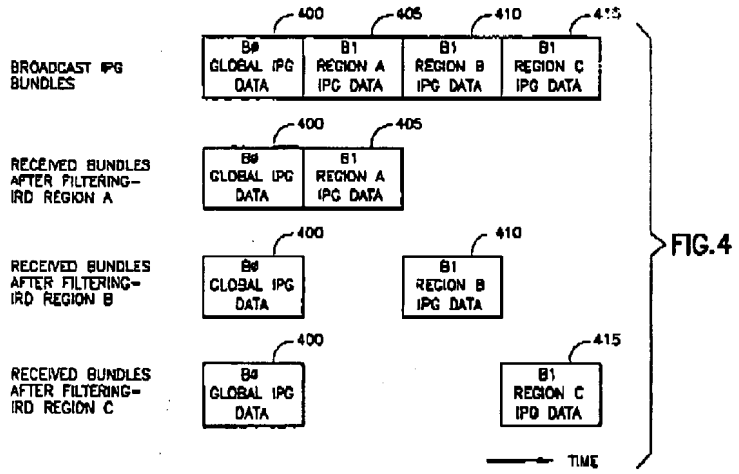

FIG.4

Packets of IPG data are output by the receiver's packet stream demultiplexer and send to an IPG filter 335 which discards region specific IP data for regions other than the IPG region to which the receiver is assigned (col. 8, lines 47-56). Importantly, Eyer does not disclose transmitting IPG data on more than one channel. The IPG data is transmitted on one channel, and accepted or discarded based upon the region. Importantly, Eyer does not disclose transmitting the IPG information for different regions on separate channels.

B. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 41, and 16 are Patentable Over the Eyer Reference

With this introduction, we now address the Examiner's Answer. The Examiner's Answer indicates:

> "Eyer further discloses an IPG Translator (IPG Trans) 225, which receives National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" and Regional or Local-IPG data "second program guide information" and uses channel grouping criteria, such as common

source, filed of interest, etc., (col. 6, lines 6-22 and col. 15, line 54 - col. 16 line 3) to form a Bundles "portion" of Global-IOPG data and "portion" of Local-IPG data and maps portion of the Global-IPG and Local-IPG to service channels "first service channel" (col. 17, line 49 - col. 18, line 11) of transport stream "first broadcast signal" (fig. 4, col. 10, lines 10-31, Bundles 400-415 and col. 12, line 31 - col. 13 line 1+) and transmits the broadcast signal to the IRDs 130 "receiving station," that allows the IRDs 130 to recover only IPG-data for its region (col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-63)

Much of the foregoing is true, but it is incorrect to the extent that it suggests that Eyer discloses "mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel." The cited portion of Eyer discloses transmitting all of the program guide information on a single channel and relying on the IRD to distinguish between the two using the region ID. It does not teach transmitting the information on a second service channel logically offset from the first:

FIG. 4 illustrates the transmission and reception of global and regional IPG data in accordance with the present invention. IPG data bundles which are broadcast, e.g., over a satellite network to a user's home, include global IPG data in a bundle 0, or B0 (400), described below in greater detail, as well as IPG data for a specific IPG region, e.g., region A, in an associated bundle 1 or B1 (405). IPG data for a region B in an associated bundle B1 (410), and IPG data for a region C in an associated bundle B1 (415). Regions A, B and C are different IPG regions which are served by a common satellite broadcast network.

Each IRD receives the same global and region-specific IPG data bundles. However, in accordance with the present invention, IRD data bundles are filtered out in hardware based on multicast addresses so a specific IRD only needs to store and process IPG data for its region, along with the global IPG data. For example, the received bundles after filtering for an IRD in region A include only B0 (400) and B1 (405), the received bundles after filtering for an IRD in region B include only B0 (400) and B1 (410), and the received bundles after filtering for an IRD in region C include only B0 (400) and B1 (415).

and ... have lots, title ds.

Five types of data blocks are defined, namely, schedule listings, descriptions, common_listings, common descriptions, and foundation data. The IPG prelinked record structure format of Tables 1 and 2 represents a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

TABLE 1

	Bits	Octets	Bit Number/Description
IPG_data_block(){			
header_ID	4	1	uimsbf range 0–15
block_type	4		uimsbf { }
block_version	8	1	uimsbf range 1–255
if (block_type==foundation) {			
number_of_demand_PIDs	5	(3)	uimsbf { }
number_of_trickle_PIDs	2		uimsbf { }
demand_block_title_lookahead	5		uimsbf range 1–31 days
common_block_time_slot_size	4		uimsbf { }
trickle_block_time_slot_size	4		uimsbf { }
demand_block_time_slot_size	4		uimsbf { }
} else {			
date	16	(2)	uimsbf GPS days
time	8	(1)	uimsbf hours since 12 am
}			
reserved	8	1	bslbf
database_version	8	1	uimsbf range 1–255
block_length	24	3	uimsbf
for (i=0; i<N; i++) {			
is_a_group	1	(1)	bslbf {no, yes}
reserved	7		bslbf
offset_to_next group_or_source	24	(3)	uimsbf
if(is_a_group) {			
reserved	8	((1))	bslbf
group_ID	8	((1))	uimsbf
} else {			
source_ID	16	((2))	uimsbf
}			
for (i=0; i<M; i++) {			
offset_to_next_record_type	24	((3))	uimsbf
record_type_ID	8	((1))	uimsbf

TABLE 1-continued

	Bits	Octets	Bit Number/Description
for (i=0; i<P; i++) {			
long_record	1		bslbf {no, yes}
if(long_record) {			
record_length	15	((((2))))	uimsbf (L)
} else {			
record_length	7	((((1))))	uimsbf(L)
}			
record_body()	8*L	(((L)))	
}			
word_alignment	0–8	((0–1))	bslbf
}			
word_alignment	0–8	(0–1)	bslbf
}			
}			

Finally, the Examiner's Answer acknowledges that Eyer does not teach that the second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, the Examiner's Answer argues that since Eyer teaches the use of a Region ID and name, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

> "modify system to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or the receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired"

The Applicants respectfully disagree. Eyer describes a system wherein the IRD receives the guide information filters out the information that is not pertinent for that receiver, and it doing so, it already manages program guide information to the extent required. Even if hindsight reconstruction were used to suggest the possibility of this modification, one of ordinary skill in the art would not do so because it would provide no further functional capability at the cost of increasing transmission requirements.

Claims 9, 17, 25, 33, 41, and 16 each recite claims similar to those of claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons.

C. Claims 2, 10, 18, 26, 33, and 42 are Patentable Over the Eyer Reference

The Examiner's Answer Does not Address the Rejection of Claims 2, 10, 18, 26, 33, and 42. These claims are patentable for the reasons described in the Applicants' Appeal Brief.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In light of the above arguments, Appellant respectfully submit that the cited references do not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention. More specifically, Appellant's claims recite novel physical features which patentably distinguish over any and all references under 35 U.S.C. § 103. As a result, a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reversing the Examiner and directing allowance of the pending claims in the subject application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 28, 2007

By: _____
Name: Georgann S. Grunebach
Reg. No.: 33,179

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA / LA1 / A109
2230 E. Imperial Highway
P. O. Box 956
El Segundo CA 90245-0956

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiving station receiving the first signal, comprising the steps of:

mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;

mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

transmitting the first signal to the receiving station;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is transmitted at a different rate than the first program guide information.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 4, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the first signal; and

storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and

retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising the steps of:

receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:

a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information;

a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information;

wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

presenting the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is received at a different rate than the first program guide information.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 12, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and

retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station receiving the first signal, comprising:

a program guide subsystem for mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal, and mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

a transmitter for transmitting the first signal to the receiver station;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is transmitted at a different rate than the first program guide information.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

21. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

22. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising:

a tuner for receiving the first signal; and

a memory for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the program guide subsystem further comprises:

a module for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide, and for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

24. (CANCELED)

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising the steps:

a tuner for receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:

a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information;

a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information;

wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

a presentation device for providing the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

26. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

27. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is received at a different rate than the first program guide information.

28. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

29. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

30. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising:

a memory for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

31. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 30, further comprising:

a module for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide and for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

32. (CANCELED)

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station receiving the first signal, comprising:

means for mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;

means for mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

means for transmitting the first signal to the receiver station;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

34. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

35. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is transmitted at a different rate than the first program guide information.

36. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

37. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

38. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising:

means for receiving the first signal; and

means for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

39. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising:

means for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and

means for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

40. (CANCELED)

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising:

means for receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:

a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information;

a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information;

wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

means for presenting the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

42. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

43. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is received at a different rate than the first program guide information.

44. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

45. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

46. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising:

means for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

47. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 46, further comprising:

means for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and

means for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

48. (CANCELED)

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a signal embodied in a carrier wave, the signal produced by performing the method steps of:

mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;

mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

transmitting the first signal;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

(none)

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES APPENDIX

(none)